

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claim 1 and cancel Claim 42 without prejudice or waiver of the subject matter, as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method of representing an amount of image color in a composite image, said method comprising the steps of:
 - generating at least one additional opacity channel for use in creating the composite image;
 - compositing at least one graphical object having object color and object ~~capacity~~ opacity, with an image having image opacity and the image color, to create the composite image, the composite image having composite image color and composite image opacity, the composite image color and composite image opacity being derived from one or more of the object color, the object opacity, the image color and the image opacity;
 - compositing the object opacity with the additional opacity channel to update the additional opacity channel, the updated additional opacity channel representing an amount of the image color remaining in the composite image following the compositing of the at least one graphical object with the image; and
 - storing at least the updated additional opacity channel in a computer-readable memory,
- wherein the steps are performed on a processor.

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of utilizing the updated additional opacity channel to remove the image color and image opacity remaining in the composite image following composition with the object color and object opacity.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of utilizing the updated additional opacity channel to composite the object color and object opacity with the image color and image opacity.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the at least one object is one object of a grouped plurality of objects.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, further comprising the step of applying a group effect to the grouped plurality of objects.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 4, further comprising the step of compositing object color and object opacity of each object of the grouped plurality of objects with the image color and image opacity.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of inverting the opacity values of the updated additional opacity channel.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of copying the image to form an image copy.

9. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of compositing the object color and object opacity with color and opacity component values of the image copy.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, wherein the updated additional opacity channel represents opacity component values associated with the image copy remaining in the image copy following composition of the object color and object opacity with the color and opacity component values of the image copy.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 9, further comprising the step of utilizing the updated additional opacity channel to remove the color and opacity component values of the image copy remaining in the image copy following composition of the object color and object opacity with the color and opacity component values of the image copy.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of utilizing the updated additional opacity channel to composite the object color and object opacity with the image color and image opacity.

13. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the object color and object opacity are accessed from an image file.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the image color and image opacity are accessed from an image file.

15. (Previously Presented) A computer-implemented method of representing an amount of image color in a composite image, said method comprising the steps of:

generating at least one additional opacity channel for use in creating the composite image;

compositing at least one graphical object having object color and object opacity, with an image having image opacity and the image color, to create the composite image, the composite image having composite image color and composite image opacity, the composite image color and composite image opacity being derived from one or more of the object color, the object opacity, the image color and the image opacity;

compositing the object opacity with the additional opacity channel to update the additional opacity channel, the updated additional opacity channel representing an amount of the image color remaining in the composite image following the compositing of the at least one graphical object with the image;

storing at least the updated additional opacity channel in a computer-readable memory; and

utilizing the stored updated additional opacity channel to remove the remaining image color in the composite image,

wherein the steps are performed on a processor.

16. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 15, further comprising the step of utilizing the updated additional opacity channel to composite the object color and object opacity with the image color and image opacity component.

17. (Previously Presented) A method according to either one of claims 15 or 16, wherein the at least one object is one object of a grouped plurality of objects.

18. to 20. (Cancelled).

21. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for representing an amount of image color in a composite image, said apparatus comprising:

means for generating at least one additional opacity channel for use in creating the composite image;

means for compositing at least one graphical object having object color and object opacity, with an image having image opacity and the image color, to create the composite image, the composite image having composite image color and composite image opacity, the composite image color and composite image opacity being derived from one or more of the object color, the object opacity, the image color and the image opacity; and

means for compositing the object opacity with the additional opacity channel to update the additional opacity channel, the updated additional opacity channel representing an amount of the image color remaining in the composite image following said compositing of the at least one graphical object with the image.

22. (Previously Presented) An apparatus representing an amount of image color in a composite image, said apparatus comprising:

means for generating at least one additional opacity channel for use in creating the composite image;

means for compositing at least one graphical object having object color and object opacity, with an image having image opacity and the image color, to create the composite image, the composite image having composite image color and composite image opacity, the composite image color and composite image opacity being derived from one or more of the object color, the object opacity, the image color and the image opacity; and

means for compositing the object opacity with the additional opacity channel to update the additional opacity channel, the updated additional opacity channel representing an amount of the image color remaining in the composite image following the compositing of the at least one graphical object with the image, and utilizing the updated additional opacity channel to remove the remaining image color in the composite image.

23. (Cancelled).

24. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for representing an amount of image color in a composite image, said apparatus comprising:

a memory for storing data and a computer program; and

a processor coupled to said memory for executing said computer program, said computer program comprising:

code for generating at least one additional opacity channel for use in creating the composite image;

code for compositing at least one graphical object having object color and object opacity, with an image having image opacity and the image color, to create the composite image, the composite image having composite image color and composite image opacity, the composite image color and composite image opacity being derived from one or more of the object color, the object opacity, the image color and the image opacity; and

code for compositing the object opacity with the additional opacity channel to update the additional opacity channel, the updated additional opacity channel representing an amount of the image color remaining in the composite image following the compositing of the at least one graphical object with the image.

25. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for representing an amount of image color in a composite image, said apparatus comprising:

a memory for storing data and a computer program; and

a processor coupled to said memory for executing said computer program, said computer program comprising:

code for generating at least one additional opacity channel for use in creating the composite image;

code for compositing at least one graphical object having object color and object opacity, with an image having image opacity and the image color, to create the composite image, the composite image having composite image color and composite image opacity, the composite image color and composite image opacity being derived from one or more of the object color, the object opacity, the image color and the image opacity;

code for compositing the object opacity with the additional opacity channel to update the additional opacity channel, the updated additional opacity channel representing an amount of the image color remaining in the composite image following the compositing of the at least one graphical object with the original image; and

code for utilizing the updated additional opacity channel to remove the remaining image color in the composite image.

26. to 29. (Cancelled).

30. (Previously Presented) A computer storage medium having a computer program recorded therein for representing an amount of image color in a composite image, said computer program comprising:

code for generating at least one additional opacity channel for use in creating the composite image;

code for compositing at least one graphical object having object color and object opacity, with an image having image opacity and the image color, to create the composite image, the composite image having composite image color and composite image opacity, the composite image color and composite image opacity being derived from one or more of the object color, the object opacity, the image color and the image opacity; and

code for compositing the object opacity with the additional opacity channel to update the additional opacity channel, the updated additional opacity channel representing an amount of the image color remaining in the composite image following the compositing of the at least one graphical object with the image.

31. (Previously Presented) A computer storage medium having a computer program recorded therein for representing an amount of image color in a composite image, said computer program comprising:

code for generating at least one additional opacity channel for use in creating the composite image;

code for compositing at least one graphical object having object color and object opacity, with an image having image opacity and the image color, to create the composite image, the composite image having composite image color and composite image opacity, the composite image color and composite image opacity being derived from one or more of the object color, the object opacity, the image color and the image opacity;

code for compositing the object opacity with the additional opacity channel to update the additional opacity channel, the updated additional opacity channel representing an

amount of the original image color remaining in the composite image following the compositing of the at least one graphical object with the image; and

code for utilizing the updated additional opacity channel to remove the remaining image color in the composite image.

32. to 38. (Cancelled).

39. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the additional opacity channel is initially set to fully opaque.

40. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 4, further comprising the step of compositing the composite image with the image using a group opacity.

41. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15, wherein the additional opacity channel is initially set to fully opaque.

42. (Cancelled)